

COLORADO TO GET \$13.2 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Colorado will receive \$13.2 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Colorado's largest school districts, that means:

COLORADO		
DENVER COUNTY	1	\$2,583,983
JEFFERSON COUNTY	R-1	1,012,004
COLORADO SPRINGS	11	737,472
PUEBLO CITY	60	686,035
ADAMS-ARAPAHOE	28J	574,088
MESA COUNTY VALLEY	51	450,838
POUDRE	R-1	379,282
GREELEY	6	362,332
BOULDER VALLEY	RE 2	361,899
HARRISON	2	355,715
NORTHGLENN-THORNTON	12	355,117
CHERRY CREEK	5	315,381
ST VRAIN VALLEY	RE 1	221,926
WESTMINSTER	50	210,671
ADAMS COUNTY	14	203,785
LITTLETON	6	192,833
THOMPSON	R-2J	183,277
DOUGLAS COUNTY	RE 1	153,927
WIDEFIELD	3	148,854
DELTA COUNTY	50(J	122,497

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.